



Essential Elements of the Norfolk Victorian Style

- Steeply pitched gable roofs
- Cut wood ornament, often with natural forms such as leaves and vines
- Wood clapboard siding
- Vertically proportioned windows and doors



NORFOLK VICTORIAN



Partial elevation and wall section

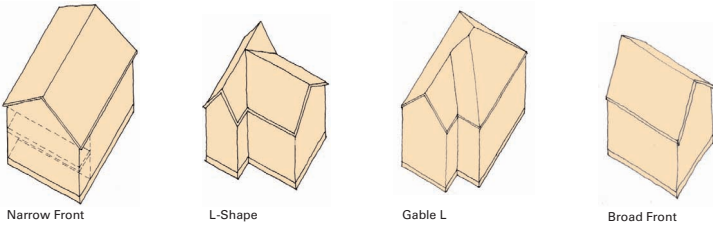
The Victorian style builds on the Carpenter Gothic cottages abundant in early rail-served coastal resorts. Pattern Books published by Andrew Jackson Downing and others were the source for many of these early house designs. These books made it easier for the builders of early resorts, country estates and even modest dwellings to adopt the style. Although exotic Victorian houses incorporating Eastlake, Queen Anne and Italianate details grew in popularity, folk-based Victorian houses flourished in this region.

The Norfolk Victorian style is based on the simple, elegant forms adapted to small houses. The massing forms are simple, while ornament is typically restrained and limited to the porch and the building's cornice.

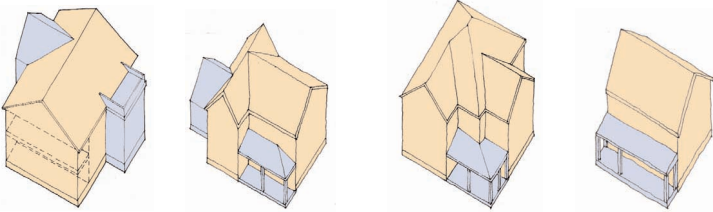


Massing & Composition

MASSING DIAGRAMS



MASSING COMBINATIONS



PORTICO AND PORCH ELEVATIONS



Massing

NARROW FRONT

Rectangular volume with a roof pitch ranging from 8 to 12 in 12 for the main body. Porches are typically added on the front as either full front porches or as a portico over the front door.

L-SHAPE

These houses have a narrow, gable-end wing with a 9 in 12 gable facing the street. The width of the gable facing the street is typically two-fifths that of the main body. This massing typically accommodates a one-story continuous porch with a shed or hipped roof.

GABLE L

Square volume with hipped roof from which a front-facing gabled wing extends. Roof pitches range from 8 in 12 to 12 in 12. Front porches extend the full width of the front facade or occasionally are a single-bay, hipped porch at the main body.

BROAD FRONT

Side-gable rectangular volume with roof pitches ranging from 8 in 12 to 10 in 12. One-story shed porches are often placed symmetrically on the front facade. One-story side wings often occur. This massing typically accommodates a one-story continuous porch with a shed or hipped roof.

Combinations

Complex forms and larger living spaces may be created by combining side wings and/or rear wings with the main body. Gabled or arched dormers may be added to introduce light into half-story and attic spaces. The architectural character of the attached parts should match that of the main body.

Facade Composition

Victorian facade composition is characterized by a symmetrical and balanced placement of doors and windows.

Individual double-hung windows are the most common type. Front doors are generally located in the corner of narrow houses and at the center of wide houses. Paired or bay windows are often used in the forward gable of the gable L massing types. Bay windows may be one or two stories tall.

Roof

The roof pitch on most Victorian houses varies from 8 to 14 in 12. Slate, shingles and metal are appropriate roofing materials.

Eaves

Two eave types define the Norfolk Victorian, one is more formal than the other:

- Boxed eaves, with frieze, are the more formal option, with or without brackets that are either horizontal or vertical in proportion. Eaves have a 12- to 16-inch frieze board either touching or at least 8 inches above the

window head trim. Eave returns should have metal flashing back to the wall at a maximum slope of 2 in 12.

- Boxed eave with sloped soffit, often hipped, at gables. The rake features an overhang with simple decorative vergeboard.

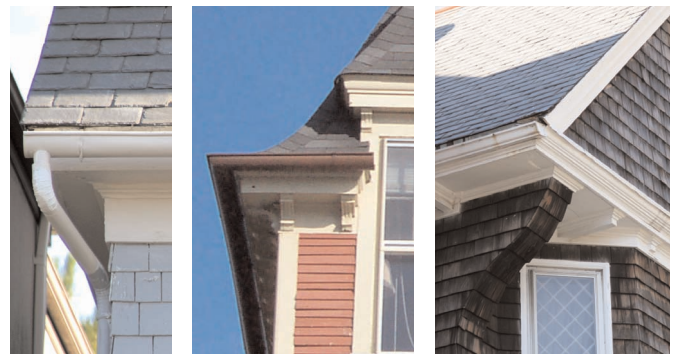
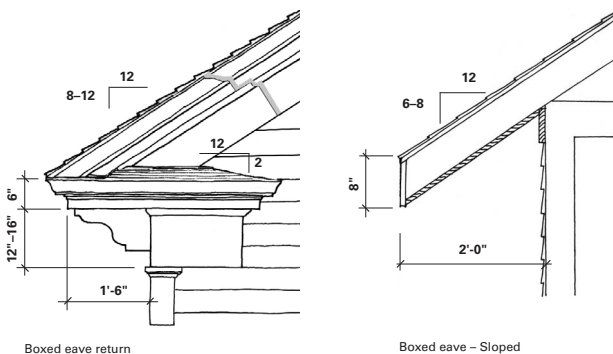
Wall Section & Eave Details

The first floor of the Victorian house is typically set three feet above the finished grade. For one-story houses, the floor-to-ceiling height should be 9 to 10 feet. For two-story houses, the minimum floor-to-ceiling height is 9 feet for the first floor and 8 feet for the second floor.

Window head heights should be 8 feet above the floor for first floor windows and 7 feet for second floor windows.

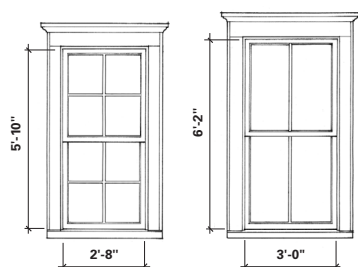
These houses have 8-inch-wide skirt boards. Foundation vents are centered under windows when used.

TYPICAL EAVE DETAILS

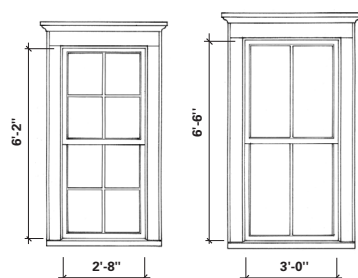


Windows & Doors

STANDARD WINDOWS

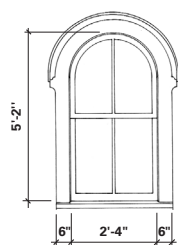


Second floor

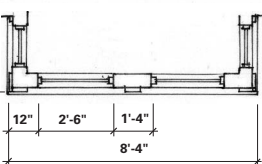
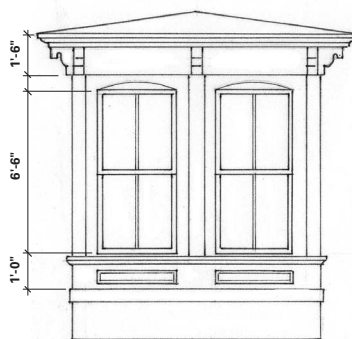
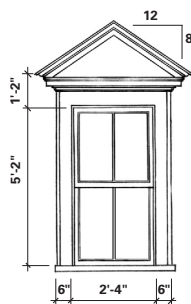


First floor

SPECIAL WINDOWS

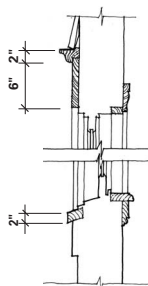


DORMER WINDOW



Box bay window

TYPICAL WINDOW DETAIL



Flat trim



Windows

Windows are vertical in proportion and have a 2 over 2 or 4 over 4 muntin pattern. Panes are always taller than they are wide. Some houses may have windows with rounded upper sashes. Standard windows are double hung.

Special Windows

Norfolk Victorian houses feature round-top windows, dormers and box and angled bay windows. Bay windows must project a minimum of 8 inches from the main structure. Bay windows have a continuous base to the ground; two-story bays are common.

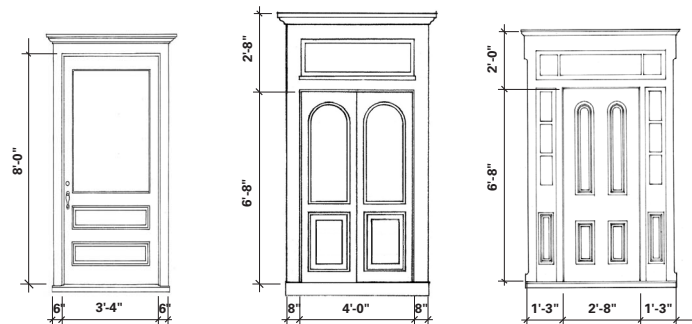
Doors

Doors on Norfolk Victorian houses are vertical in proportion. The maximum width of a pair of double doors is 5 feet for doors at least 8 feet tall, and 4 feet for shorter pairs of double doors.

Trim

Windows and doors have 6-inch trim with a simple backband profile. Victorian window and door trim carries a decorative crown and cap above; windows may feature an ornate hood.

DOORS



Porches

Porch Roofs & Eaves

Porches can be one or two stories tall with flat, shed or shallow hipped roofs. Full porches may be integrated under the house's main roof. Shed or hip porches have a 3 in 12 to 4 in 12 pitch. Exposed 2 x 8 rafter tails typically occur every 14 to 16 inches on center. Entablatures are generally Classically proportioned and detailed.

Columns & Railings

Column types include 8-inch-square posts and 8- to 10-inch-diameter Doric and Ionic columns. First-floor columns are 9- to 10-feet tall, while second-floor columns are 8- to 9-feet tall. Turned or square balusters are spaced no more than 4 inches apart. Porch bays should be vertically proportioned. Flat-cut orna-

mental balusters are also used with square columns. Square pattern lattice is used as infill between piers at the foundation.

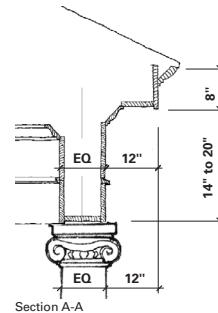
Brackets

Brackets range from simple designs cut from boards, to more elaborate turned wood or jigsaw-cut openwork. Brackets are a minimum of 2 inches thick. Archway bracketing can be used to form portals over key entry locations.

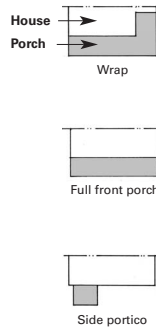
Porch Location

Full front porches are encouraged on Norfolk Victorian houses. Porches can be used to wrap the corner of a house, or fill in the void created by an L-shaped plan. The minimum porch depth is 8 feet.

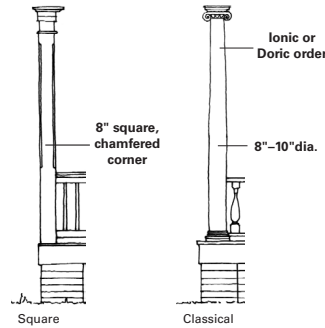
PORCH EAVE DETAILS



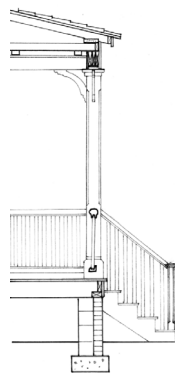
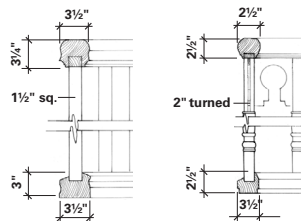
TYPICAL PORCH LOCATIONS



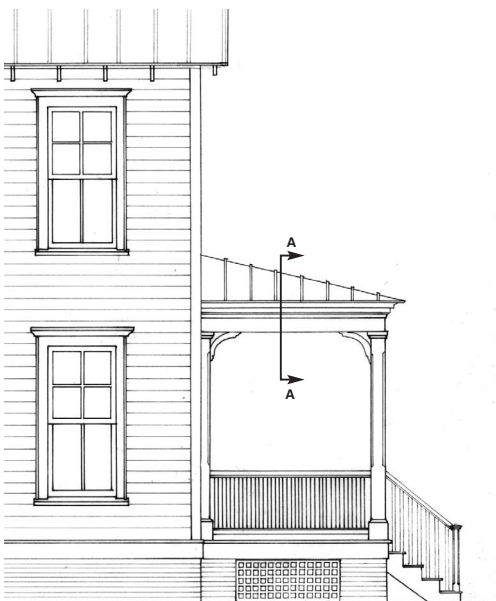
PORCH COLUMN TYPES



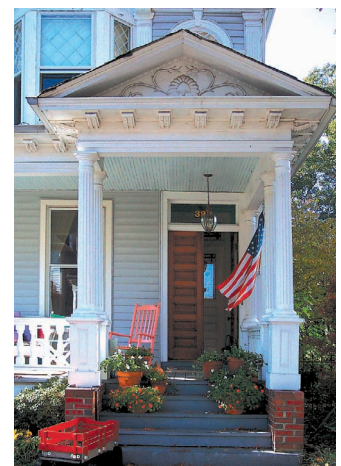
RAIL DETAILS



One-story porch elevation



One-story porch elevation



Materials & Applications



Roofing

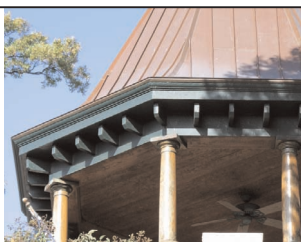
- Slate (including manufactured slate products), laminated asphalt or composition shingles with a slate pattern, or painted metal standing seam or 5-V crimp panels

Soffits

- Smooth-finish composition board, tongue-and-groove wood boards, or fiber-cement panels

Gutters & Downspouts

- Half-round or ogee profile gutters with round or rectangular downspouts in copper, painted or prefinished metal



Windows

- Painted wood or solid cellular PVC, or clad wood or vinyl with brick veneer only; true divided light or simulated divided light (SDL) sash with traditional exterior muntin profile (7/8 inch wide)

Doors

- Wood, fiberglass or steel with traditional stile-and-rail proportions and raised panel profiles, painted or stained

Shutters

- Wood or composite, sized to match window sash and mounted with hardware to appear operable



Cladding

- Smooth-finish wood or fiber-cement lap siding, 4 to 6 inches exposure
- Vertical board and batten siding
- Smooth-finish brick, common bond
- Random-width cut wood or fiber-cement shingles
- Decorative cut wood or fiber-cement shingles in fishscale, diamond and staggered patterns

Trim

- Wood, composite, cellular PVC or polyurethane millwork; stone or cast stone

Foundations & Chimneys

- Brick or stone veneer



Columns

- Architecturally correct Classical proportions and details in wood, fiberglass or composite material
- Square box column with chamfered corners in built-up wood, fiberglass or composite material
- Turned posts (minimum 6-inch stock) in wood, fiberglass or composite material

Railings

- Milled wood top and bottom rails with square, turned or scroll-cut board balusters

Porch Ceilings

- Plaster, tongue-and-groove wood or composite boards, or beaded-profile plywood



Front Fences

- Wood picket, or wrought iron or solid bar stock metal picket with ornamental metal posts

Lighting

- Porch pendant or wall-mounted carriage lantern



Gallery of Examples

